

MEETING OF COUNCIL, Monday, 23 September 2002

Please note that these minutes are an abridged version of the official minutes and are circulated prior to the official minutes being approved by Council. This is done in the interests of communications with the membership, but it obviously means that this version may contain errors which are the fault of the author and which will not persist in the "official" version as ratified by the Council. The meeting was held in the meeting room of J.C. Coetzee Building at Potchefstroom University from CHE (Potchefstroom). Prof. R. Bharuthram, Prof. J.A.A. Engelbrecht (Treasurer), Prof. D.J. Grayson, Prof. JB Malherbe, Prof. H Moraal, Miss. J. Padayachee (Secretary), Dr PA Whitelock (President and Chairperson) and Prof. EC Zingu (Vice-President) were present. Apologies were received from Dr. S.H. Connell and Prof. HB Geyer. Prof. Bharuthram had to leave at 16h00.

5.1 Future of Physics in South Africa

Regional meetings have been held in the Western Cape (80 attended), Eastern Cape (20 attended) and Gauteng (50 attended). Dr. Whitelock thanked all those involved in the organisation of these meetings. Dr. Whitelock reported that people were, in general, very supportive of the initiative and a full report-back will be made at the AGM. Prof. Zingu reported that arrangements for the KwaZulu-Natal meeting have not gone as well as preferred. Nithaya Chetty and Catherine Cress (UNP) are keen to share their successful ideas on increasing numbers of physics students with the physics community and a KwaZulu-Natal meeting is therefore necessary. Prof. Engelbrecht reported that Prof. H.C. Swart of the University of the Free State has agreed to chair the Free State regional meeting. Kim Trollip (NRF) is in the process of setting up a web discussion forum. It was decided that nominees for the international panel should be put forward by the membership. A list will then be forwarded to Dr. Rob Adam (DG-DST) for selection of the panel members. People who have experience with this type of process internationally should be included on the panel.

5.2 Report of the Survey of Physics in South Africa

The Report was finally completed and was discussed. Council decided to accept the Report. A foreword could be added before the entire Report is made available on the web site. Delegates at the conference will receive copies of the Executive Summary as well as the Introduction of the Report. All involved in the compilation of the report (N. Chetty, M. Hellberg, M. Feast) will be thanked at the AGM. It was agreed that this Report will be the primary input for the "Future of Physics in South Africa" panel.

5.3 IoP Lecture Tour 2002

The report on Dr. Zbig Sobiersierski's lecture tour of South Africa was submitted to the IoP, who were satisfied with the report. It was decided to ask Dr. Connell to contact the IoP to discuss future lecture tours.

5.4 IoP Medal Proposal

Dr. Whitelock reported that the suggestion of "The Nelson Mandela Medal for Physics Development" was rejected by the Nelson Mandela Foundation. During the President's opening address at the conference, Dr. Whitelock will request that ideas for a name be submitted at the AGM. The final decision will be made by Council immediately after the AGM.

6 FINANCIAL MATTERS

(a) The Treasurer, Prof. Engelbrecht presented audited financial statements for the year end of 31 March 2002. Council commented on the figures presented and Prof. Zingu suggested that budgeted amounts also be reflected on future "Income and Expenditure Statements".

(b) Prof. Engelbrecht reported having trouble getting members to pay their fees. Dr. Whitelock suggested that there should be a deadline for payment, after which interest is charged. Prof. Grayson suggested that conference organisers specify that only paid up members are allowed to pay the lower conference registration fee. Council approved the following increases to membership fees for 2003:

Category	2002 Fees	2003 Fees
Ordinary	R120	R140

Associate	R80	R90
Student/Retired	R30	R35
Institutional	R1500	R1600

Note that the actual fees approved by the AGM were higher than this.

It was decided that international members from non-African countries be charged \$30 for 2003. This should be sufficient to cover the extra postage.

(c) Council unanimously approved that the SAIP should cover Dr. Whitelock's cost of travel to the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal Regional meetings for the "Future of Physics in South Africa".

7 CONFERENCES

7.1. Durban (UND) 2001

Report outstanding

7.2. Potchefstroom (PU for CHE) (Spring School, 24/09/2002, Conference 25-27/09/2002)

Prof. Moraal reported on the conference programme. There are 6 parallel sessions with the third day ending at 13h00. There will be two poster sessions, one on Wednesday and one on Friday. Session E (Lasers, Optics and Spectroscopy) has an increase in contributions as a result of the National Laser Centre. The demonstration competition has been moved to a parallel session as there are only 4 entries. There is one more invited speaker (F. Staley) and 9 talks were reduced from 30 minutes to 15 minutes. The programme was essentially put together by the Specialist Group Chairs.

7.3. Stellenbosch (US) 2003

The organisers of the Stellenbosch conference submitted CVs of plenary speakers for Council's approval.

7.4. Bloemfontein (UFS) 2004

Nothing to report

7.5. 2005

The first meeting of the SAIP council was held on 7 July 1955 at the University of Pretoria. Dr. Whitelock will officially invite the University of Pretoria to host the 2005 conference.

8 COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL

8.1 Awards Committee

The De Beers Gold Medal will be awarded at the banquet on Thursday, 26 September 2002.

8.2 Education Committee

Prof. Grayson reported that she had thus far not received any response to the comments that were submitted on the last draft of the FET Curriculum Statement for Grades 10-12. She also expressed her dissatisfaction with how the Working Group had been assembled. Paul Hobden was the only physicist on the Working Group and he has had great difficulty with the Group. Prof. Grayson described the process as "disastrous" and stated that the Working Group was going to have the FET Curriculum Statement completed by March 2003, which she saw as being too little time to address all the problems with the current draft. Prof. Grayson was thanked for her efforts in submitting comments and it was agreed that HODs should be encouraged to respond to the next draft which was due out in October 2002.

8.3 Transformation Committee

The Report by the Transformation Committee will be made available on the SAIP web site and the membership are invited to submit comments. The comments will be discussed at the next Council meeting. The report will also be made available to the "Future of Physics in South Africa" panel. The Transformation Committee, especially the chairs, Prof. Zingu and Dr. Whitelock, were thanked for their efforts.

8.4.1. Communication

The editor of the newsletter, Dr. E. Mortimer has resigned. Ms. N.J. Ncapayi (iThemba LABS) will be asked if she would like to take over from Dr. Mortimer.

8.4.2. Conferences

There are problems with getting hosts for conferences after 2004.

8.4.3. National Science Olympiad

The winner of the National Science Olympiad usually receives a cash prize as well as a bronze medal. Prof. Engelbrecht will contact FEST to arrange that the medal be awarded.

9. Microscopy Society of Southern Africa (MSSA)

MSSA held a successful international conference in Durban from 3 to 7 September. The conference ran for 5 days, with 3 parallel sessions and was attended by ~1 200 delegates. Prof. Engelbrecht was asked to convey the SAIP's congratulations to the MSSA chair.

10. South African Crystallographic Society (SACrS)

Prof. Malherbe will contact the SACrS to re-establish ties with the SAIP.

11.1. IUPAP

Prof. Zingu will ensure that the Secretary receives a copy of the minutes of the IUPAP National Liaison Committee meetings. Prof. Zingu also reported that Dr. N. Chetty and Prof. D.J. Grayson will represent South Africa at the IUPAP General Assembly and there will be a report-back of the General Assembly as well as the National Liaison Committee meetings. Council agreed that there should be an IUPAP summary in the newsletter.

11.2. AIPs History of Physics in South Africa

Prof. D. Chinnery has informed the SAIP that he has received information from the AIP regarding what is required for the report on the history of physics in South Africa. It was agreed that Prof. Bharuthram will get the information from Prof. Chinnery and then send the AIP a copy of the "Report on the State of Physics in South Africa". Prof. Moraal volunteered to assist Prof. Bharuthram with writing up the History of Physics in South Africa, for the SAIP's 50th Anniversary in 2005. Prof. Bharuthram suggested that retired members may be able to help with the task. A list of retired members will be sent to him.

12 MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

12.1. New Members since last meeting

Mr. K. Govender (A)
Ms. V.A. McBride (A)
Mrs. J. Kriek (O)
Miss. N.J. Ncapayi (S)
Mr. D.B. Fish (O)
Ms. S Buchner (O)
Mr L.L. Viljoen (S)
Mnr J.E. Westraadt (S)
Mr H.H. Oosthuizen (S)

Mnr U. Van Antwerpen (S)
 Miss N.N. Nkonki (S)
 Prof. A.R.W. Hughes (O)
 Mr. A. Mawire (O)
 Dr. V. Sankaran (O)
 Mr. B.H. Bartlett (S)
 Mr. L. Boonzaaier (S)

12.2 SAIP Membership Summary as at 16 September 2002

Student	53
Honorary Members	10
Retired	27
Associate	27
Ordinary Members	291
Emeritus	10
Institutional	3
Honorary Institutional Members	1
Total Members	422

By Specialist Group

Group	1st	2nd
Astrophysics	44	11
Lasers, Optics and Spectroscopy,	33	20
Solar, Terrestrial and Plasma	21	22
Nuclear, Particle and Radiation	60	32
Soild State and Materials Science	120	43
Theoretical	21	28
Education	31	43
Applied and Industrial	42	76
General	9	19

12.3. Honorary Members

The awarding of honorary memberships will be made at the conference banquet.

12.4. Emeritus Members

Prof. Engelbrecht pointed out that members who have been fully paid-up for 15 years qualify to become Emeritus Members upon retirement. Council will be happy to consider applications from those who feel that they qualify. A notice will be put into the newsletter, inviting applications.

13 GENERAL

13.1. Bursaries

Prof. Malherbe reported that he had approached the NRF to provide each Physics Department with one undergraduate bursary for physics, but had not received any response. A possibility would be to obtain undergraduate bursaries from outside companies. Prof. Engelbrecht felt that this is a matter that should be included in the "Future of Physics in South Africa" process. Council agreed that if students were provided with undergraduate bursaries (with no contractual agreements) then they would probably stay in physics. Prof. Moraal suggested that each department puts together their own bursary scheme and arrange with the NRF for a THRIP-like agreement, where the NRF matches the department's contribution.

13.3 SAIP Postal Address

Council approved that a fixed postal address will be obtained.

13.4 Internet Access to Journals

Prof. Malherbe reported that most universities, research institutes, etc. in South Africa have limited funds for subscribing to journals. Most journal publishing companies allow only electronic access to their journals if the library subscribes either to that journal or to a minimum number of other journals in that company. Apparently, the Mathematics Society of SA have reached an agreement with major publishers to allow internet access to journals, at a reduced rate, for SA because SA is a developing country. Prof. Malherbe requested that HODs be asked if they support the proposal that the SAIP approach the major publishers in physics for a similar agreement. Prof. Malherbe volunteered to write the letter.

13.5 Targeted NRF Scholarships

Ms. Padayachee reported that the NRF will consider adding physics to the fields supported in terms of targeted scholarships for 2004, after the report on the women in physics conference was submitted to Anke Rädcl (NRF Student Support). These scholarships are aimed at previously disadvantaged groups and women in "targeted" fields.

13.6 Student Prize

Prof. Malherbe explained that he was against the awarding of the Student Prize as it meant that one person could get more than one prize. Since the aim of the Student Prize was to get students to join the SAIP, it was suggested that only Student Members should be eligible for the Specialist Group prizes presented during the conference. This matter will be put to the Specialist Group chairs during their meeting with Council.

13.7 Council Meetings at Annual Conference

It was proposed that three Council meetings be held per year with one meeting held two days before the start of the Annual Conference (i.e. one day before the Spring/Winter School). If it is an election year, then the old Council will meet with the new Council to ensure some continuity.

14 NEXT MEETING

A date for the next meeting was not set.